

REGION ONE

CAC Meeting Summary

9/05/07

Present: Jim Satterfield, Alan Wood, Jim Vashro, Dave Landstrom, Kent Laudon, John Fraley, Lee Anderson, Joel Tohtz, **Carolyn Sime, Quentin Kujala**, Terry Murphy, Marshall Corbett, Jon Dahlberg, Jim Morey, Brent Mitchell, Terry Connor, Dan Savage, Darrell Coverdell, Mark Sheets, Tim Engelson, Terry Comstock, Justin Sliter, Richard Peterson and Martha Abbrescia.

Re-cap from last meeting on 5/16/07: Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Division Administrator, is proposing that statewide CAC's be the regional forum for sharing information about what we (FWP) are thinking and soliciting public comment. The plan is to introduce the topic at the May Commission meeting and then bring more detail to the work session in September, with a tentative regulation proposal at the December meeting. FWP would like to visit with all CAC's between now and Sept. 27th to review the status of wolves and where we are developing a season structure, as well as solicit the CAC's input about what they'd like to see regarding this topic.

9/05/07 – Carolyn Sime (Statewide Wolf Coordinator) and Quentin Kujala (Helena Wildlife Biologist) are present tonight to review the status of wolves, discuss where FWP is in developing a season structure and solicit input from the R1 Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Carolyn Sime – (Bulleted list from Power Point Presentation)

- ◆ Wolf EIS completed in 2004
- ◆ Wolf Program Overview
- ◆ Season Development
- ◆ Timeline - FWP & FWP Commission
- ◆ Montana History
- ◆ Milestones
- ◆ Montana's Large Carnivores
- ◆ Endangered Species Act
- ◆ From Bounties to Big Game – one example = Lions
- ◆ Transitioning from Federal Wolf Recovery to State Conservation
- ◆ What did Montana Plan For? - Maintain Population and Balance Competing Interests
- ◆ Foundations of the plan and where we're going
- ◆ Population monitoring
- ◆ Wolf/Livestock interaction
- ◆ Outreach
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Gray Wolf populations in MT 1979-2006
- ◆ MT Wolf Basics – outside of National Parks
- ◆ Adaptive Management

Quentin Kujala

- Evolution of Wolf Season
- Fall 2008 is the “Focus” harvest Season (maybe)
- Population Objectives & Monitoring
 - 15 Breeding Pairs is the MINIMUM Benchmark
 - Number of Wolves
 - Radio Collared vs. Sightings & Hunter Surveys
 - Distribution & other management considerations
- Timing of Harvest
 - Maintain Breeding Potential
 - Prime Pelt Condition
 - Ongoing seasons & public presence
 - Relationship to annual count
- Opportunity & Harvest Allocation
 - Hunters & Trappers (Game animal or furbearer?)
 - Resident & Non-resident
 - Non-Outfitted vs. Outfitted
 - Maximum opportunity, limited harvest bag limit
- Harvest Monitoring
- FWP Commission -Season Setting & Public Interaction Summary for initial Wolf Season Development
 - Aug – Sep – FWP introduces process to all CAC’s
 - Sep 27 – Commission workshop, public input is welcome
 - Oct – Nov – Informal Discussions
 - Dec 20 – Commission will entertain proposals with public comment
 - Jan – Public Comment at statewide meetings
 - Feb – Public Comment – if any changes to Tentative Proposal
 - Spring ’08 – Harvest Quotas proposed & adopted by Commission thru established tentative – Final Process.

The CAC offered several good questions and points to ponder. Both Carolyn and Quentin jotted notes and ideas expressed from the R1 CAC.

**Carolyn posed a “Big” Question to the group for consideration:
“What is Fair Chase as it pertains to Wolves?”**

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting is Scheduled for:
Wednesday, October 10, 2007**